

REMARKS

In response to the final rejection of the last Office Action, Applicants are submitting an RCE and this amendment.

Prior to this amendment, claims 36-48 were pending in the application.

This amendment cancels claims 36 -48 thereby rendering moot any rejections directed to these claims.

Applicants acknowledge the acceptance of the Terminal Disclaimer filed January 20, 2004.

The present application is a continuation-in-part of application serial no. 09/691,580, filed October 18, 2000 (now abandoned), which is a continuation-in-part of application serial no. 09/609,828, filed July 5, 2000 (now abandoned), which is a continuation-in-part of application serial no. 09/517,999, filed March 2, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,685,563, which is based on provisional application no. 60/196,827, filed March 5, 1999.

Applicants have added new claims 50-57. Every element of each new claim 50-57 is clearly supported by the disclosures of the present application, the aforementioned abandoned application nos. 09/691,580 and 09/609,828 and the aforementioned U.S. Patent No. 6,685,563. Therefore, claims 50-57 are entitled to an effective filing date that is prior to the

effective filing date of Okuniewicz U.S. Patent No. 6,585,589 "Okuniewicz" which was cited by the Examiner in the last Office Action. Therefore, Applicants submit that Okuniewicz is not prior art to new claims 50-57 and should be withdrawn by the Examiner.

Applicants have provided the following summary which indicates the relevant portions of the disclosures of the previous abandoned applications and issued patent that provide support for new claims 50-57.

A) Application Serial No. 09/691,580, filed October 18, 2000

Applicant refers the Examiner to the following portions of the disclosure of abandoned application serial no. 09/691,580 that provides support for claims 50-57:

Page 3, lines 20-23;

Page 4, lines 1-7;

Page 4, lines 19-23;

Page 5, lines 1-2;

Page 10, lines 22-23;

Page 11, lines 1-5;

Page 12, lines 12-20;

Page 42, lines 3-23; and

Page 43, lines 1-12.

B) Application Serial No. 09/609,828, filed July 5, 2000

Applicant refers the Examiner to the following portions of the disclosure of abandoned application serial no. 09/609,828 that provides support for claims 50-57.

Page 4, lines 1-6;

Page 5, lines 1-6;

Page 10, lines 9-21;

Page 11, lines 12-21;

Page 12, lines 1-2;

Page 19, 6-10;

Page 32, lines 14-21;

Page 33, lines 1-2;

Page 33, lines 6-21; and

Page 34, lines 1-3.

C) Application Serial No. 09/517,999, filed March 2, 2000,
now U.S. Patent No. 6,685,563

The filing date of application serial no. 09/517,999 is prior to the effective filing date of Okuniewicz.

Applicant refers the Examiner to the following portions of the disclosure of U.S. Patent No. 6,685,563 that provide support for claims 50-57:

Column 2, lines 29-38;

Column 3, lines 7-20;

Column 3, lines 51-65;
Column 5, lines 17-26;
Column 6, lines 1-12;
Column 9, lines 1-49;
Column 10, lines 55-67; and
Column 11, lines 8-51.

U.S. Patent No. 6,685,563 is based on provisional application serial no. 60/122,914, filed March 5, 1999. Portions of that application refer to a lottery terminal in data communication with a base or standard gaming machine (see page 3, lines 8-21 and page 4, lines 1-21).

There are other portions of the disclosures of Applicants' issued patent and abandoned applications that may also further provide support for claims 50-57. If the Examiner needs further information regarding the portions of the disclosures of the above-referenced patent applications that support claims 50-57, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned.

Therefore, Applicants submit that Okuniewicz is not prior art to new claims 50-57 and should be withdrawn.

Applicants also submit that none of the other references made of record teach or suggest the gaming apparatuses or gaming systems recited in claims 50-57.

It is submitted in view of these amendments and remarks

that all grounds for rejection have been removed.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are therefore earnestly solicited.

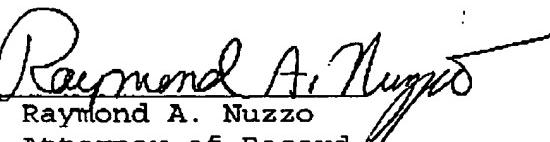
The Examiner is urged to call the undersigned if he has any questions concerning this amendment and these remarks.

Applicants are submitting a Petition for Extension of Time for one month and the appropriate fee. The Applicants are also submitting the fee for two (2) extra independent claims.

Respectfully submitted,

June 30, 2004

By:


Raymond A. Nuzzo
Attorney of Record
Reg. No. 37,199